I. Two Lineages, One Story

The Cipriani Line — Ceccano & Rome

Founded in 1870 with the establishment of the *Antica tappezzeria Cipriani*, this branch represents a long tradition of upholsterers, furniture artisans, and entrepreneurs who shaped Roman interior design for generations.

The Merolli Line — Celano & Avezzano

An educated family from the Abruzzi, marked by jurists, literati, and intellectuals — a lineage of thought, writing, and cultural refinement.

These two worlds came together through the marriage of **Vincenzo Cipriani** and **Gabriella Merolli**, forming the foundation of a large and remarkable family.

II. The Ancestors — Personalities with History

Enea Merolli (1879–1963)

Jurist, Poet, Survivor, Intellectual

- Born: 3 March 1879, Celano
- Studies: Law (1900/01), later Physiology & Philosophy (1905)
- Pseudonym: *Ariele di Lem*
- Defining event: Survived the devastating Avezzano earthquake (13 January 1915)
- Work: *Il Trionfo della Vita* (1916)
- Died: 27 December 1963, Avezzano

Enea embodies the intellectual spirit of the family — a man shaped by catastrophe, who transformed trauma into literature.

Vincenzo Cipriani (1905–1991)

Entrepreneur, Master Craftsman, Father of Thirteen

- Born: 10 September 1905, Ceccano
- Profession: Upholsterer and interior design entrepreneur
- Head of the atelier at Viale Parioli 91, Rome
- Managed up to 10 employees

- Siblings:
    - Filomena (1908–1988), mother of Isolina
    - Maria (1920–2010), seamstress and housekeeper
    - Another sister Maria, who died young
- Later years: Alzheimer's, loss of memory
- Died: 19 March 1991

Vincenzo represents the craft tradition that endured for 150 years — a pillar of Roman craftsmanship.

Gabriella Cipriani–Merolli (1918–1964)

Master of the Curved Needle, Poetess, Mother

- Born: 12 February 1918, Chieti
- Profile: Highly gifted craftswoman, head of the atelier, poetess
- Work: *Vigna Clara* (1963), 32-page poetry collection
- Died: 5 July 1964, Rome, at age 46

Gabriella united art and craft — a luminous presence whose early death left a lasting void.

III. The Thirteen Siblings — A Family in the Heart of Rome

All children were born in the tall yellow house at **Via Eustachio Manfredi 17, 4th floor, door 16**, in the Parioli district — a lively microcosm of voices, work, and dreams.

The Siblings at a Glance

Name	Profile
Giovanni Cipriani	Cultural manager, bibliophile, collector of rare books; lived at Via Salaria 300
Armando (b. 10.07.1947)	Upholsterer, later entrepreneur; 15-year manager of Piscina Don Bosco; remained in the birth district; his son Alessio worked in the family business
Luigi C.	Master upholsterer; ran the *Antica tappezzeria Cipriani dal 1870* until its closure in October 2020
Lucia Nadia C. (Lucina) (b. 27.02.1955)	Artist, oriental dancer; emigrated to Austria in 1975; active in Salzburg and Hallein

Maurizio C.	Worked in Germany; later upholsterer in Rome; now retired
Maria Teresa Cipriani	Widow of Pino Oddo; mother of dancer Serena Oddo
Stefano	† 2022
Massimo	Gardener
Maria Letizia	Lives in Rome
Liliana	Retired
Silvio, Paolo, Gabriele	Less documented, yet integral to the family mosaic

Together, they form a kaleidoscope of craftsmanship, art, migration, and resilience.

IV. Zia Maria (1920–2010)

The Quiet Backbone of the Family

- Profession: Seamstress, housekeeper, untrained upholsterer
- Managed a 15-person household while working in Vincenzo's atelier
- Lived in a tiny two-room apartment in Ceccano without bathroom or shower
- Known for her frugality, sharp mind, and tireless work

She represents the invisible labor that holds families together.

V. The Tragic Fate of Isolina Cipriani (1933–1950)

A True Story of Illusion, Love, and the abysses of Cinecittà

- Daughter of Filomena; traditionally believed to be the illegitimate child of the President of the Italian Republic
- Dream: To become an actress
- Appeared as an extra in *Quo Vadis* (1951)
- Died: 25 September 1950, after falling from the 4th/5th floor of Pensione Trapani, Via Veneto
- Last words: *"Goffredo, Goffredo amore mio!"*
- Documented by Gianni Padoan in *Triste favola vera di Isolina Cipriani*

Her story reflects the moral dangers and illusions of the postwar film world.

VI. Scientific Classification & Resilience

Intergenerational Transmission

The family's heritage flows from:

- Enea's intellectual and literary tradition
- Vincenzo's craftsmanship mastery
- Gabriella's artistic sensibility
- Lucina's modern artistic expression

Sociological Significance

The closure of the workshop in 2020 symbolizes the decline of traditional craftsmanship in modern Italy.

Moral Contemporary History

Isolina's fate stands as a warning about the seductive yet perilous world of postwar cinema.

VII. Concluding Appreciation

The Cipriani–Merolli family is a vivid example of how history condenses into individual lives:

- craftsmanship and art
- migration and modernization
- tradition and transformation
- tragedy and resilience

This chronicle does more than preserve memories — it reveals how one family lived, endured, and helped shape 150 years of Italian history.